

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0065

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TAGS: EAID, SPOP, TD

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD
FEDERATION AFFILIATE

REF: STATE 283276

1. THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (FPA), IN SPITE OF ALL ITS SHORTCOMINGS, IS BY FAR THE MOST EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES. ITS OPERATIONS ARE NOW BEING CRAMPED AND REDUCED, HOWEVER, DUE TO FUNDING CUT-BACKS BY THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FOUNDATION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. THESE CUTS ARE DUE TO TRINIDAD'S RELATIVELY HIGH PER CAPITA INCOME BROUGHT ABOUT BY ITS NEW OIL WEALTH. THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT HAS NOT, DESPITE ITS VASTLY INCREASED REVENUES, MADE UP FOR THE SHORTFALL.

2. DUE TO THESE BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS, THE FPA PLANS TO TURN OVER THREE OF ITS FIVE REMAINING CLINICS TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO OPERATE AT THE BEGINNING OF 1977. IT WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ITS TWO MOST IMPORTANT CLINICS - IN PORT OF SPAIN AND SAN FERNANDO. IN ADDITION TO SERVING AS CLINICS FOR FPA ACCEPTORS AND SITES FOR THE ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION (AVS)

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FINANCED STERILIZATION PROJECT, THE TWO CLINICS WILL ALSO

BE USED TO SERVE COMMUNITY-BASED DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS. THE FPA IS HOPING TO RECEIVE ENOUGH ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PERFORM STERILIZATIONS AT ITS CLINIC IN SAN FERNANDO.

3. THE STERILIZATION PROJECT, ORIGINALLY FUNDED BY OXFAM AND MORE RECENTLY BY AVS, IS HOPEFULLY ON ITS WAY UP. SINCE ITS INAUGURATION IN 1974 THE FPA STERILIZATION UNIT HAS OPERATED ON SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 600 PERSONS. THE FPA OPTIMISTICALLY PROJECTS AN ANNUAL RATE OF 1,000 ACCEPTORS WITH THE ADDITION OF A FACILITY TO SERVE SOUTH TRINIDAD.

4. THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS FAMILY PLANNING IN PRINCIPLE AND HAS INCORPORATED FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION AND CLINICAL ACTIVITIES INTO ITS MULTI-PURPOSE HEALTH CENTERS SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IT HAS BEEN LESS THAN WHOLEHEARTED IN ITS ADVOCACY OF FAMILY PLANNING, HOWEVER, AND IT HAS NOT INCREASED ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FPA SINCE 1968.

5. IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR FAMILY PLANNING, THE FPA HAS CONSISTENTLY AND CONSCIOUSLY TAKEN A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PROMPTING GOVERNMENT ACTION OR IN OPENING UP NEW IDEAS OR NEW PROGRAMS. IN MANY CASES, ONCE THE PROGRAMS ARE FUNCTIONING WELL, THEY ARE TURNED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE. THE FPA IS NOW CONCENTRATING MOST OF ITS EFFORTS IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL AND FUNDS ON INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS. WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS, THE FPA COULD REIDLY EXPAND THESE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS ITS COMMUNITY-BASED DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. THIS IS AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION WELL WORTHY OF OUR SUPPORT THROUGH IPPF IN ORDER TO FURTHER OVERALL ATTAINMENT OF AID POPULATION GOALS. FAY

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